TRAPPING FUR-BEARING ANIMALS IN QUÉBEC

2. CRITERIA FOR IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY

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Introduction

This is a technical document intended to supplement the trapping policy. It defines the terms and conditions of the various items in the policy. Annex 1 and Annex 2 give a summary of these new terms and conditions and their consequences for each of the administrative regions.

1. Terms and conditions of management on organized public lands

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1.1 Trapping Regulations

Traplines

Exclusive rights for traplines in the trapping zones will be granted by individual lease, valid for nine years. When the lease expires, it may be renewed for the same period of time, provided the terms have been respected. Annual licences for each trapline are mandatory.

In Zones where Exploitation is Controlled, (ZECs) and wildlife reserves

In Zones where Exploitation is Controlled, ZECs, and wildlife reserves, exclusive rights will be conferred by annual licence only. However, the licence may be renewable to the same holder for a period of nine years, if the conditions have been respected.

If, as a consequence of changes made in the boundaries of a ZEC or wildlife reserve, a land granted under the conditions mentioned above is excluded, a trapping lease will be issued to the licence holder.

In order to increase the safety of trappers and to ensure better yields, the department may, at a group's request, issue a collective lease, especially where distance and isolation warrant it. Of course, this lease may cover a larger area than the prescribed maximum for one trapper.

Minimum and maximum catch quotas will be established for each species and each trapline, and the permit holder will have to present a report on captures at the end of the trapping season. The quotas assigned will take into account, in particular, the results of the inventory of designated fur-bearing animal species, taken before the opening of the season.

Trapping unit

In a trapping unit, since exclusive rights are granted for one season only, trapping will be subject to the issue of an annual licence for each trapping unit.

In places where, after the policy has been applied, demand would happen to be lower than supply for exclusive rights limited to one season, this time may be extended and the exclusive rights may be granted to one trapper for a period no longer than three years.

Maximum catch quotas only will be established for designated fur-bearing animal species. The trapper will have to present a report of captures at the end of the season.

Trapping units or traplines reserved for specific purposes

Although the whole area comprised in ZECs and wildlife reserves may be harvested as trapping units or traplines, it may be required that some areas be left unharvested for variable periods, (one or more years).

The need for rotation in land use, the existence of activities incompatible with trapping, an insufficient harvesting potential or use for research and education purposes, and other such reasons, may warrant the department to forbid harvesting on some traplines or trapping units.

1.2 Location of traplines and trapping units

Since traplines are used primarily for income purposes they are usually located in more outlying zones, farther from populated zones. Trapping units, since they are used more for recreation-income purposes, are generally located on the parts of those territories nearest to towns or villages, so they are more easily accessible. The respective extent of the areas reserved for these two kinds of use will of course depend on the potential demand by the clients concerned.

Thus, in ZECs and wildlife reserves located within 20 km of a town or village, trapping units for harvesting will occupy a minimum 30 percent of the area, depending on estimated demand and accessibility. The rest of the territory will be allocated as traplines.

For ZECs and wildlife reserves located more than 20 km from a town or village, a minimum 15 percent will be granted as trapping units. The rest of those territories will also be allocated as traplines.

On the basis of this criterion, 34 out of the 57 ZECs and 14 wildlife reserves are located within 20 km of a town or village, (Annex 3). In the cases where the first two years of harvesting should demonstrate that the demand is not sufficient for granting all the available trapping units, it will be possible to allocate a larger proportion of those territories as traplines.

In the Estrie Region, the existence of only one ZEC and its distance from towns and villages justifies its sole utilization as trapping units.

Finally, in the Anticosti Wildlife Reserve, the geographic situation and the presence of a resident population justify the application of particular terms and conditions which are yet to be determined for the harvesting of fur-bearing animals.

1.3 Area of traplines and trapping units

Factors in determining an area

The area of traplines and trapping units is established on the basis of factors such as the yield of the territory in fur-bearing animals, accessibility, purpose of the utilization (income or recreation-income), topography and demand.

Traplines

Since traplines are used primarily for income, their areas will be large enough to ensure a substantial harvest of fur-bearing animals. They will vary between 20 and 100 km^2. Thus, on the basis of expected utilization of the territory to be allocated as traplines and considering the average area granted to each trapper, the average area, which is now 103 km^2, will have to be brought down closer to 50 km^2. Exceptions to the maximum 100 km^2 area can be justified particularly where demand is clearly lower than supply.

Such bases for the division of the territory would allow about 3 000 trappers to practice their activity.

Collective leases

Where a collective lease is issued to a group of trappers, the area allocated, which will be a block (adjacent lands), will be proportional to the number of trappers in the group. However, it will be no more than 300 km^2.

Trapping units

Since trapping units are created for recreation-income purposes, their area is consequently smaller: it will vary between 10 and 50 km^2, with an average of 25 km^2.

This form of allocation could allow about 800 trappers to practice the activity.

1.4 Choice of Trappers

Available traplines and trapping units will be allocated randomly following this procedure:

Draw for available traplines and trapping units

(a) information by the media on the nature and location of the available units or traplines;

(b) interested trappers, at least 18 years old, must register by filling in a form available for this purpose in the department offices. Any registration will be for only one ZEC, wildlife reserve or trapline division;

(c) allocation of available traplines and trapping units will be carried out by means of a draw held under the auspices of the department's Service des réservations et renseignements;

(d) only one registration will be accepted for each participant. Registration costs for this draw will be the same as for other activities or services of the department which are the object of the draw;

(e) a waiting list will be established each year in case of waivers during the year covered by the draw;

(f) a person who exercises collective and exclusive trapping rights may not request a licence for professional or recreational trapping, or for being a trapper assistant.

Relocation priority to present holders

Priority for relocation to new traplines will be given to trappers who **already are** holders of licences to operate traplines in free territory or in a ZEC and whose traplines are abolished under the new policy.

In the Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Côte-Nord and Outaouais regions, traplines which become available will be allocated according to the waiting lists, which are to be kept only for the two years following the implementation of this policy. After this period, lines will be allocated by means of a draw.

1.5 Trappers' Assistants

For purposes of safety and to increase efficiency and yield, the operator of a trapline or a trapping unit will be able to obtain the help of three trappers of his (her) choice. On the recommendation of the licence holder, the department will issue a trapper assistant licence for the persons designated. The trapper assistant will have no privilege or priority in obtaining a trapping unit. However, if (s)he works on a trapline for a period of at least five years (s)he will be given first refusal if the operator of the trapline wishes to cease activities.

1.6 Quotas

Quotas allocated to trappers for the designated species of fur-bearing animals will be established by the Direction générale de la faune in cooperation with the regional branches.

1.7 Trappers' camps

Traplines

Because of the greater permanence conferred by the granting of exclusive trapline rights, and the nature of the activity whose objective is primarily an economic one, trappers may build camps in trapline zones, wildlife reserves and ZECs.

However, these structures are subject to terms and conditions stipulated by government regulation.

Trapping units

The temporary nature of trapping units does not justify the building of a camp. In the ZECs the trapper will have to use existing structures or obtain from the ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources a temporary occupancy right for the duration of trapping activities, which authorizes the installation of a tent or a trailer. Such occupancy will be subject to terms and regulations operative on these lands.

In wildlife reserves, the holder of a trapping unit will in certain cases be able to rent an available camp or set up a tent or tent-trailer in accordance with terms and regulations operative on these lands.

2. Terms and conditions of management on free public lands and private lands (free zone)

2.1 Regulation of the activity

On free public and private lands, obtaining a regular trapping licence is the only requirement for engaging in this activity. Access to private lands remains, of course, conditional upon obtaining permission from the owners.

The trapper is then subject to the general regulations respecting trapping seasons which are essential for controlled harvesting.

2.2 Location of the free zones of public and private territories

Unorganized, free zones at present occupy an area of about 160 000 km^2 in various regions of Québec, with the exception of Abitibi-Témiscamingue and the Côte-Nord. In these two regions, the whole territory is set aside for beaver reserves or traplines with exclusive rights for the licence holders.

In these two regions, implementation of the policy will allow the creation of a free zone which will improve accessibility and meet the demand for recreation-income trapping privileges.

Abitibi-Témiscamingue

In the Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region, accessibility created by the freeing of territories located near populated centres affects an area of about 2 300 km^2 of public land and one of 8 800 km^2 of private land.

These territories, located close to populated areas, are, of course, the best suited to recreation-income activities without stopovers.

From the trapline zone, the final boundaries of those territories will be established with special attention to the necessity of adopting physical boundaries that trappers can recognize easily.

Côte-Nord

In the Côte-Nord Region, North Shore, 6.5 percent of the available trapping territory, representing about 3 800 km^2 of public land, has been made accessible for the free practice of trapping. Thus, one zone has been opened to free trapping, between the Saguenay River and Highway 172, from meridian 70°40′ to Sacré-Coeur, and between the St. Lawrence River and the 315 and 345 kv power lines from Sacré-Coeur to Bersimis 2, Highway 385 to lake Laval and the boundary of the Bersimis beaver reserve.

The St. Lawrence River and the 375 kv power line from Ragueneau to the Moisie River, and the 151 kv power line to Havre Saint-Pierre constitute the boundaries of another freed zone.

The road network over these territories is rather linear and covers close to 1 000 km of coast; it generally does not penetrate very far into the back country (an average 29 km). Most towns and villages are also located along the St. Lawrence River.

Annex 1

Summary of the new terms and conditions of trapping in Québec

Parameter	Beaver Reserves
Purpose	Income or way of life
Use and type of tenure	Trapline
Licence	Annual-specific
Type of users	Québec residents
Choice of trappers	Natives

Trapline Zone	Zone where Exploitation is Controlled	Wildlife Reserve	Outfitters Network	Free Zone
Income	Recreation-income and income	Recreation-income and income	Recreation-income and/or income	Recreation-income
Trapline	A. Traplines	A. Traplines	A. Outfitter establishment	Free (trapping season)
	B. Annual trapping units	B. Annual trapping units	B. Trapline (MLCP)	
	C. Education, research	C. Education, research		
Annual-specific lease — 9 years	A. Renewable annual-specific	A. Renewable annual-specific	A. Annual-specific	Annual-specific
	B. Annual-specific	B. Annual-specific	B. Annual-specific lease — 9 years	
Québec residents	Québec residents	Québec residents	A. Québec residents or non-residents	Québec residents
			B. Québec residents	
Annual draw for available traplines	Annual draw for available traplines	Annual draw for available traplines	A. Outfitter's choice	Not available
			B. Annual draw for available traplines	

Annex 2

List of the areas of the parts of the trapping network affected by the policy, by administrative region

Present Terms and Conditions									
Region	Beaver Reserves	Traplines	Zones where Exploitation is Controlled (ZECs) (Trapping Units)	Wildlife Reserves		Outfitters Network	Free Zone		Total Accessible
				Allowed	Forbidden		Public Land	Private Land	
01	—	—	3.1	—	4.5	0.2	21.0	10.6	34.9
02	111.9	—	5.0	—	—	0.3	9.7	5.2	20.2
03	—	—	2.5	—	10.3	0.4	3.8	35.9	42.6
04	15.5	—	7.4	—	3.4	2.0	13.9	13.3	36.6
05	—	—	0.2	—	0.2	—	0.4	8.2	8.8
06	0.9	—	3.0	—	4.4	0.8	4.6	21.1	29.5
07	12.9	15.3	4.9	0.4	1.8	3.4	5.8	6.5	36.3
08	67.5	48.8	—	0.3	—	—	—	—	49.1
09	232.5*	58.6	—	7.9	—	—	—	—	66.5
10	734.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	**1 173.4**	**122.7**	**26.1**	**8.6**	**24.6**	**7.1**	**59.2**	**100.8**	**324.5**

* Saguenay Reserve — Access for trapping purposes allowed to Native and non-Native people
** ZECs and wildlife reserves included
*** Anticosti Island included

Annex 2 (cont'd.)

New Terms and Conditions								
Region	Beaver Reserves	Traplines	Trapping Units		Outfitters Network	Free Zone		Total Accessible
			Zones where Exploitation is Controlled (ZECs)	Wildlife Reserves		Public Land	Private Land	
01	—	4.0	0.9	0.9	0.2	21.0	10.6	37.6
02	111.9	3.6	1.4	—	0.3	9.7	5.2	20.2
03	—	7.8	0.7	2.6	0.4	3.8	35.9	51.2
04	15.5	8.5	1.3	1.0	2.0	13.9	13.3	40.0
05	—	—	0.2	—	—	0.4	8.2	8.8
06	0.9	3.6	0.7	0.5	0.8	4.6	21.1	31.3
07	12.9	18.7	2.1	0.7	4.2	5.8	6.6	38.1
08	67.5	36.4	0.5	—	0.8	2.7	8.8	49.1
09	232.5*	57.4***	0.9	1.8	1.2	3.8	1.4	66.5
10	734.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	**173.4**	**140.0**	**8.7**	**7.5**	**9.9**	**65.7**	**111.1**	**342.6**

* Saguenay Reserve — Access for trapping purposes for Native and non-Native people
** ZECs and wildlife reserves included
*** Anticosti Island included

Annex 3

Classification of Zones where Exploitation is Controlled, (ZECs) and wildlife reserves concerned by the policy, according to distance from a town or village

	< 20 km		> 20 km	
Administrative Region	**Wildlife Reserves**	**ZECs**	**Wildlife Reserves**	**ZECs**
01	Port-Daniel Matane Rimouski	du Bas-Saint-Laurent Chapais Owen Casault York-Baillargeon des Anses		
02		Martin-Valin de l'Anse-Saint-Jean de la Lièvre du Lac-de-la-boîteuse du Lac Brébeuf Chauvin Mars-Moulin		Onatchiway des Passes de la Rivière-aux-Rats
03	Laurentides Portneuf	Batiscan-Neilson des Martres du Lac-au-Sable Buteux-Bas-Saguenay Jaro		de la Rivière- Blanche
04	Saint-Maurice Mastigouche	de La Croche de la Bessonne Tawachiche		Jeannotte du Chapeau-de-Paille Borgia du Gros-Brochet Frémont Flamand Wessonneau Menokeosawin Kiskissink
05		Louise-Gosford		
06	Rouge Matawin	Lavigne Collin de la Maison-de-Pierre des Nymphes		Boullé Mazana
07	Papineau-Labelle Plaisance La Vérendrye	Bras-Coupé-Désert Lesueur de Rapides-des- Joachims Saint-Patrice Mitchinamecus		Pontiac Petawaga Festubert Normandie
08				Maganasipi Restigo Dumoine
09	Baie-Trinité Matamec Port-Cartier/ Sept-Îles	de Forestville Nordique D'Iberville	Anticosti	Varin Matimek